



*Press Release*

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**DATE:** April 22, 2013



## **High-Speed Rail Authority Celebrates Earth Day** **Shares Environmental Benefits of High-Speed Rail Program**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – In celebration of Earth Day the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is sharing how the high-speed rail system will alleviate pressure on California's current transportation network and provide immediate and long-term environmental benefits to residents for decades to come.

Since its inception, the Authority set the goals of helping reduce statewide pollutant emissions and supporting sustainability policy objectives. Sustainability encompasses the concept of stewardship, continuous improvement, and accountability with a focus on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

"High-speed rail is a truly sustainable project that will benefit all Californians by taking pressure off the state's transportation system, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve open space and reduce fossil fuel use," said Mark McLoughlin, Authority Deputy Director of Environmental Planning. "On Earth Day, we celebrate the benefits of this one-of-a-kind project with Californians who want clean air, protected habitat and investments in innovative projects that will benefit them and future generations."

California's road network has over 50,000 miles of freeways and highways; there are over 100 airports in the state and thousands of miles of conventional rail systems. However, California's transportation systems are aging and cannot keep up with the demands of state's current residents. By 2050, the state will add more people than now live in New York state. To keep up with these population and usage trends, California would need to invest over \$150 billion in today's existing infrastructure.

Facts about high-speed rail in California:

- In 2022, when the Initial Operating Section (Merced to the San Fernando Valley) is up and running, the resulting GHG reductions will be between 100,000 to 300,000 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) in the first year. That's the equivalent of from between 17,700 to 53,000 personal vehicles taken off the road.
- By 2040, the system will reduce vehicles miles of travel in the state by almost 10 million miles of travel every day, and the state will see a reduction of 97 to 180 flights daily.

Learn more about high-speed rail benefits by visiting <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/facts.aspx>

### ***About California High-Speed Rail Authority***

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. By 2029, the system will run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system will eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations. In addition, the Authority is working with regional partners to implement a statewide rail modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to meet the state's 21st century transportation needs. To learn more visit the Authority's website at [cahighspeedrail.ca.gov](http://cahighspeedrail.ca.gov) and join us on [facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail](https://facebook.com/CaliforniaHighSpeedRail) and follow us at [twitter.com/cahsra/](https://twitter.com/cahsra/).